



Afya Timiza reproductive, maternal and child health project officer Anthony Arasio shares health information while conducting outreach in Turkana County. Photo credit: Edna Mosiara/Afya Timiza

KENYA

AFYA TIMIZA

Access to quality and affordable health care continues to burden the nomadic pastoral populations in the hard-to-reach arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya. Underpinning factors include greater difficulty in traveling to health facilities, less diversity in health care resources to choose from, and high illiteracy levels. Harsh climates make it difficult to attract and retain health care workers in the few existing health facilities. The patriarchal nature of the nomadic pastoral community also leads to gender norms that do not support independent decision-making for women, hindering their access to and utilization of health services.

Harmful social cultural practices like early marriage and female genital mutilation are customary. Women, children, and adolescents are most disadvantaged by these inequalities and vulnerabilities. Afya Timiza is an initiative aimed at sustainably improving health outcomes for mothers, children, and adolescents from vulnerable communities by increasing the availability of affordable and quality services in family planning and reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (FP/RMNCAH); nutrition; and water, hygiene, and sanitation.

OUR WORK

To realize improved FP/RMNCAH and nutrition outcomes, the program is implementing an overarching strategy comprising technical assistance, advocacy, and community empowerment. Afya Timiza's approach also ultimately seeks to ensure that county systems are durable, accountable, and responsive and can reduce donor involvement. This includes strengthening county leadership, management and governance within health systems and increasing the number and skills matrix of mid-level and community health workers – ultimately improving human resources for health productivity.

This approach further prioritizes support to counties for planning, budgeting, and implementing their own solutions through increased investments in health. This includes advocating for increased

allocation and utilization of funds and mobilizing communities for financial protection for health. Additionally, Afya Timiza establishes and deploys social innovative solutions to increase access and improve socio-cultural and gender norms that burden women in the marginalized communities. These include community outreach, public-private partnerships, the use of peer educators and talking walls, and behavior change messaging using digisomo talking books.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since it started in September 2016, Afya Timiza has:

- Enabled 34,280 women to access skilled delivery services.
- Empowered 146,885 individuals to receive family planning services.
- Enabled 47,202 children under the age of 1 to receive full immunizations.
- Reached 332,711 children under the age of 5 through nutrition-specific interventions.
- Enrolled 9,231 individuals in the national health insurance fund.
- Mobilized and trained 296 members of county and sub-county health management teams on leadership, management and governance.
- Engaged five local civil society organizations as implementing partners to address community health.
- Co-created the county results-based financing program in Turkana County, with the Turkana county government committing US \$350,000 to roll out the program.

BUDGET: USD \$24 million

DURATION

2016-2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Turkana and Samburu Counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Amref Health Africa

KEY PARTNERS

Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment, RCEA Lokichar, Samburu Aid in Africa, Networks Empowering Samburu Transformation, KIBA Child Development Organization

MISSION CONTACT

Ruth Tiampati
Activity Manager
Tel: +254-714-606-534
Email: rtiampati@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Gilbert Bwire Wangalwa
Chief of Party
Tel: +254-722-875-171
Email: Gilbert.wangalwa@afyatimiza.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidkea@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya